

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that each of the linear beam-forming lens system, the lens array section, and the condenser optical system is movable along an optical axis. Similarly, claim 7 has been amended to clarify that each of the linear beam-forming lens system and the cylindrical lens is movable along an optical axis.

Claims 1-14 were rejected as unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent Nos. 4,974,919 (Muraki) and 6,467,911 (Ueyama et al.). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

First, applicant submits that there would have been no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the disclosures to obtain the subject matter of the pending claims.

The Muraki et al. patent relates to an illuminating device that includes a fly's eye lens system 13, a condenser lens 14, a lens 16 and a condensing optical system 17 (*see, e.g.*, FIGS. 2 and 9). The disclosed illumination device is suitable for exposure systems, such as semiconductor steppers, that project a pattern of a reticle upon a wafer

For example, the Muraki et al. patent relates to an optical device suitable for use in an exposure system for projecting a pattern of a reticle upon a wafer using laser light. An example of such a device is a "stepper" used in manufacturing semiconductor devices. (*See, e.g.*, col. 1, lines 15-19; col. 2, line 43; col. 4, lines 53-56; col. 12, lines 30-41). In contrast, the Ueyama et al. patent relates to a projector with a LCD panel, and a lamp for illuminating the panel. A person of ordinary skill in the field of semiconductor steppers would not have turned to information about the type of projectors disclosed in the Ueyama et al. patent.

Furthermore, the Muraki et al. patent repeatedly emphasizes the importance of uniform illumination (*see, e.g.*, col. 12, lines 66-68; col. 23, lines 37-39). In contrast, movement of the optical components in the Ueyama et al. patent changes the size of the area which is illuminated,

as well as the brightness of the area illuminated (col. 27, lines 8-15; col. 28, lines 37-44; col. 28, line 64 – col. 29, line 4).

For at least the foregoing reasons, a person of ordinary skill would not have been motivated to combine the cited references to obtain the claimed subject matter.

Furthermore, even if the disclosures of the cited references were somehow combined, that would not result in the claimed subject matter.

The Ueyama et al. patent discloses projector and lamp units in which a lens array is movable along an optical axis (*see, e.g.*, lens array 103 in FIG. 31A, and lens array 104 in FIGS. 32A and 33A). In other embodiments, that patent discloses that a kaleidoscope 119 (FIG. 34A) or relay lens 121 (FIG. 35A) may be moved along an optical axis.

However, there is no suggestion that any component that might correspond to a cylindrical lens, a condenser optical system, or a linear beam-forming lens system is movable along an optical axis. Therefore, there is no suggestion of a system in which each of a linear beam-forming lens system, a lens array section, and a condenser optical system is movable along an optical axis, as recited in claim 1. Similarly, there is no suggestion of a system in which each of a linear beam-forming lens system and a cylindrical lens is movable along an optical axis, as recited in claim 7.

For those additional reasons, claims 1 and 7, as well the dependent claims, should be allowable.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this

Applicant : Yoshikazu Sugiyama et al.  
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Filed : February 22, 2002  
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paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Enclosed is a check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9/8/04

  
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